

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-7, 12, 15-17, 28, and 34 have been amended. No claim has been added or canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim 15 was objected to for informalities. The claim has been amended. Claim 1 was provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 13 of copending Application No. 09/861,279. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-11, 16-30, and 34 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Kohashi in view of Pearis. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 1 is directed to a method of detecting and correcting defective pixel data in raw data taken from an image sensor of a portable image capture device. The intelligent host, e.g., a computer, receives raw image data signal for each pixel in said image from the portable image capture device. The intelligent host then performs the steps to detect and correct defective pixels in the manner recited. The claimed method is advantageous over the conventional method of pixel defect detection and correction in a number of ways. For example, it reduces the manufacturing cost of the portable image capture device by not including the correction logic in the video processing ASIC.

Kohashi discloses an image pickup apparatus, e.g., a digital camera. The pixel defect detection and correction are performed within the image pickup apparatus in Kohashi, which is a conventional method of pixel defect correction. Kohashi does not disclose or suggest the pixel defect detection and correction method, as recited in claim 1. Pearis discloses a scanner that automatically detects defective pixel locations from images scanned. Pearis does not remedy the defect of Kohashi. Claim 1 is allowable at least for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason. In addition, claims 2-5 have been amended to recite video subsampling features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Claims 2-5 are allowable. Claim 6 has been amended to recite the features relating to a statistical database that are not disclosed or suggest by the recited references. Claim 6 is allowable.

Claim 16 is directed to a system for detecting and correcting defective pixels. The claim recites performing the pixel defect correction at the host. The cited references do not

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disclose these features. Claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17-30 and 34 depend from claim 16 and are allowable at least for this reason.

In addition, claim 17 recites the features relating to a statistical database that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Claim 17 is allowable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 15 and indicating that claims 12-14, 31-33, 35, and 36 include allowable subject matters. Claim 12 has been amended to be an independent claim by incorporating the features of claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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